

Applicant's dependent claim 19 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the reference of Ingram.

The Office, however, indicated that Applicant's dependent claim 20 contains allowable subjected matter. More specifically, the Office on page 3, lines 19-21 of the Office Action held that dependent claim 20 "...would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims."

In view of the above and in order to place the Application in a condition for allowance, the Applicant has canceled dependent claim 20 and added the subject matter of dependent claim 20 to both independent claim 18 and independent claim 21.

Since presently canceled dependent claim 20 contains allowable subject matter, the Applicant respectfully submits that base independent claim 18 and independent claim 21, as currently amended, are now in allowable form.

In regards to Applicant's dependent claim 19, claim 19 depends on independent claim 18. Since independent claim 18, as currently amended, is allowable for the reasons given above, Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claim 19 is also allowable.

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Allowance of claims 18, 19, and 21, as amended, is respectfully requested. Applicant has enclosed a marked-up version of the amendment showing changes made with this response.

VERSION OF AMENDMENTS SHOWING MARKINGS

In the Claims

1-17. (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) A two-stage fishing bobber responsive to different fishing forces comprising:

a bobber main body, said bobber main body providing a buoyant force to normally maintain the bobber main body in a floating condition; and

~~a member resiliently displaceable with respect to said bobber main body in response to a force on said member with the force on said member sufficient to overcome at least some if not all of the buoyant force of the bobber main body~~ a spring having a spring constant that is about equal to the spring constant of the bobber in water or the total force to compress the spring with respect to the bobber main body is approximately equal to the total force to submerge the bobber main body and the resiliently displaceable member to thereby allow the simultaneous submersion of the bobber main body and the displacement of the member with respect to the bobber main body so as to provide gradual resistance.

19. (Previously Presented) The two stage fishing bobber of claim 18 wherein the force to displace said member to a down position is substantially equal to the buoyant force of the bobber main body so that the when the member is in the down position the bobber main body is submerged.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Currently Amended) A two-stage fishing bobber responsive to different fishing forces comprising:

a bobber main body, said bobber main body providing a buoyant force to normally maintain the bobber main body in a floating condition; and

~~a member resiliently displaceable with respect to said bobber main body in response to a force on said member with the force on said member sufficient to overcome at least some if not all of the buoyant force of the bobber main body~~ a spring having a spring constant that is about equal to the spring constant of the bobber in water or the total force to compress the spring with respect to the bobber main body is approximately equal to the total force to submerge the bobber main body and the resiliently displaceable member to thereby allow the simultaneous submersion of the bobber main body and the displacement of the member with respect to the bobber main body over an entire range of motion of the member so as to provide gradual resistance.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure